DC
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW!
60¢
NO. 534
AUG.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
LORD SATANIS WANTS CONTROL OF SUPERMAN!
SO DOES THE SORCERESS SYRENE!
AND...IT'S A SPLIT DECISION!
ACTION PLUS:
"AIR WAVE'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER!"
5-3928

THE BEGINNING OF AN EPIC!
SUPERMAN®
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
HE DIGS BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT HE DOES BEST.
DIGS DEEP, SNAPPING STEEL SUPPORT BEAMS WHICH BRACE A CERTAIN CITY SKYSCRAPER...
GREAT SCOTT! THE BUILDING'S SHAKING!
GOOD GRIEF, CLARK! THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN DREADING!
JIMMY, DO SOMETHING! HE'S AFTER US!
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST OLSEN, USE YOUR BLASTED SIGNAL-WATCH!
DIGS DEEP INTO THE ROCKY STRATA BELOW METROPOLIS.
ONLY SUPERMAN CAN STOP--THE MOLE!
SORRY, PERRY, BUT THE MAN OF STEEL HASN'T GOT A CAESAR'S GHOST OF A CHANCE! NOT WHEN HE MUST FIRST BATTLE LORD SATANIS!
DOUBLE TROUBLE IN...
"TWO FOR THE DEATH OF ONE!"
MARV WOLFMAN WRITER
CURT SWAN PENCILLER
DAVE HUNT INKER
TODD KLEIN LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR

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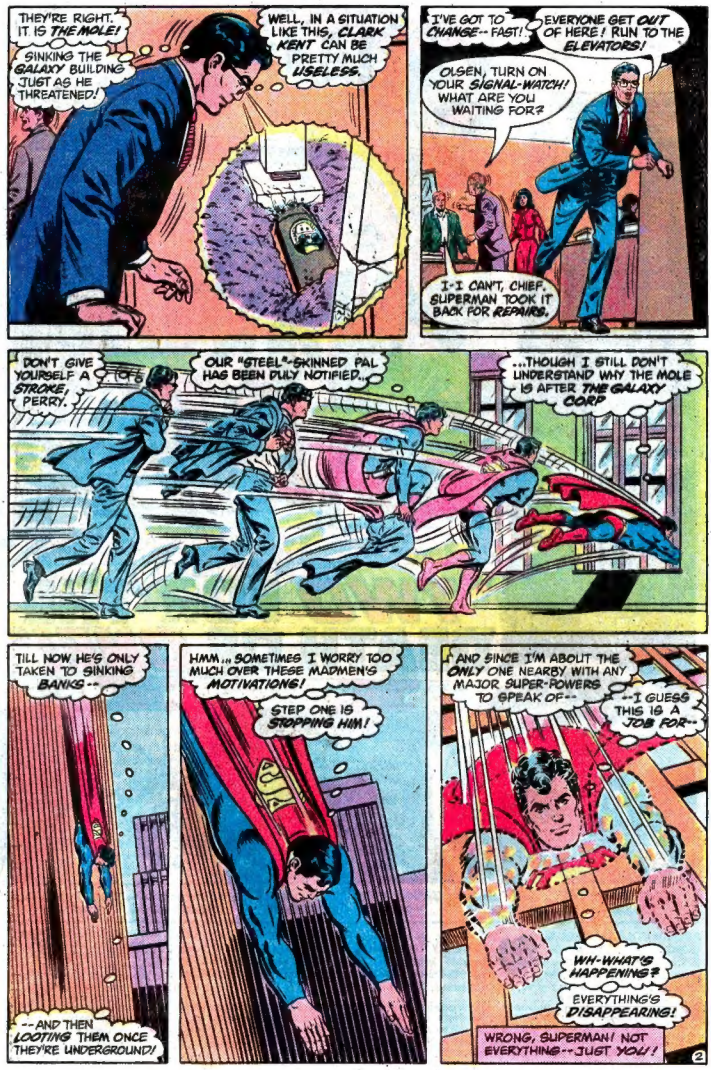
THEY'RE RIGHT. IT IS THE MOLE!
SINKING THE GALAXY BUILDING JUST AS HE THREATENED!
WELL, IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, CLARK KENT CAN BE PRETTY MUCH USELESS.
I'VE GOT TO CHANGE-- FAST!
EVERYONE GET OUT OF HERE! RUN TO THE ELEVATORS!
OLSEN, TURN ON YOUR SIGNAL-WATCH! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
I-I CAN'T, CHIEF. SUPERMAN TOOK IT BACK FOR REPAIRS.
DON'T GIVE YOURSELF A STROKE, PERRY.
OUR "STEEL"-SKINNED PAL HAS BEEN DULY NOTIFIED.
...THOUGH I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE MOLE IS AFTER THE GALAXY CORP.
TILL NOW HE'S ONLY TAKEN TO SINKING BANKS--
--AND THEN LOOTING THEM ONCE THEY'RE UNDERGROUND!
HMM... SOMETIMES I WORRY TOO MUCH OVER THESE MADMEN'S MOTIVATIONS!
STEP ONE IS STOPPING HIM!
AND SINCE I'M ABOUT THE ONLY ONE NEARBY WITH ANY MAJOR SUPER-POWERS TO SPEAK OF--
--I GUESS THIS IS A JOB FOR--
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
EVERYTHING'S DISAPPEARING!
WRONG, SUPERMAN! NOT EVERYTHING--JUST YOU!

SUDDENLY, COLORS AND SHAPES ARE POPPING UP ALL OVER!
I KNOW WHERE I AM -- SLIPPING BACKWARD THROUGH THE TIME STREAM!
BUT HOW-- AND WHY?
MAYBE I SHOULD BE ASKING MYSELF-- WHO?
THOUGH SOMETHING TELLS ME I KNOW THE ANSWER!
I DON'T FEEL WEAK, WHICH RULES OUT KRYPTONITE.
AND SINCE THE ONLY OTHER THING THAT CAN AFFECT ME IS MAGIC...
GREAT RAO! I'M BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES!
BUT WHAT IN THE NAME OF KRYPTON IS GOING ON DOWN THERE?
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE-- ALL BEING FORCED TO LABOR ON-- WHAT?

FORGET THE QUESTIONS FOR NOW! I CAN'T STOP FALLING...!
...PLUNGING TOWARD THAT STRANGE DISK THEY'RE BUILDING!
I'LL CRASH RIGHT THROUGH--
WHOOOMP!
HUH?
BEEN BLASTED BACK! THERE'D GOT TO BE A FORCE-FIELD IN PLAY HERE!
LORD SATAN WARNED US OF THIS ONE.
NOW I'M POSITIVE I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS!
IF HE IS ANOTHER DEVIL, WE MUST KILL HIM!
THEIR DIALECT IS FOURTEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN, SO NOW I KNOW APPROXIMATELY WHEN AND WHERE I AM..
WE MUST NOT GIVE HIM THE CHANCE TO SLAY US!
YOU HAVE ME WRONG, FRIENDS. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
I WAS BROUGHT HERE AGAINST MY WILL!
BROUGHT HERE BY THE DEMON WHO RULES US, I'LL WAGER!
WHICH MAKES YOU A DEMON AS WELL!
KILL HIM! KILL HIM!
BUT OUR PICKS--THEY BREAK AGAINST HIS SKIN?!
YOU SEE? HE IS IN LEAGUE WITH LORD SATAN!
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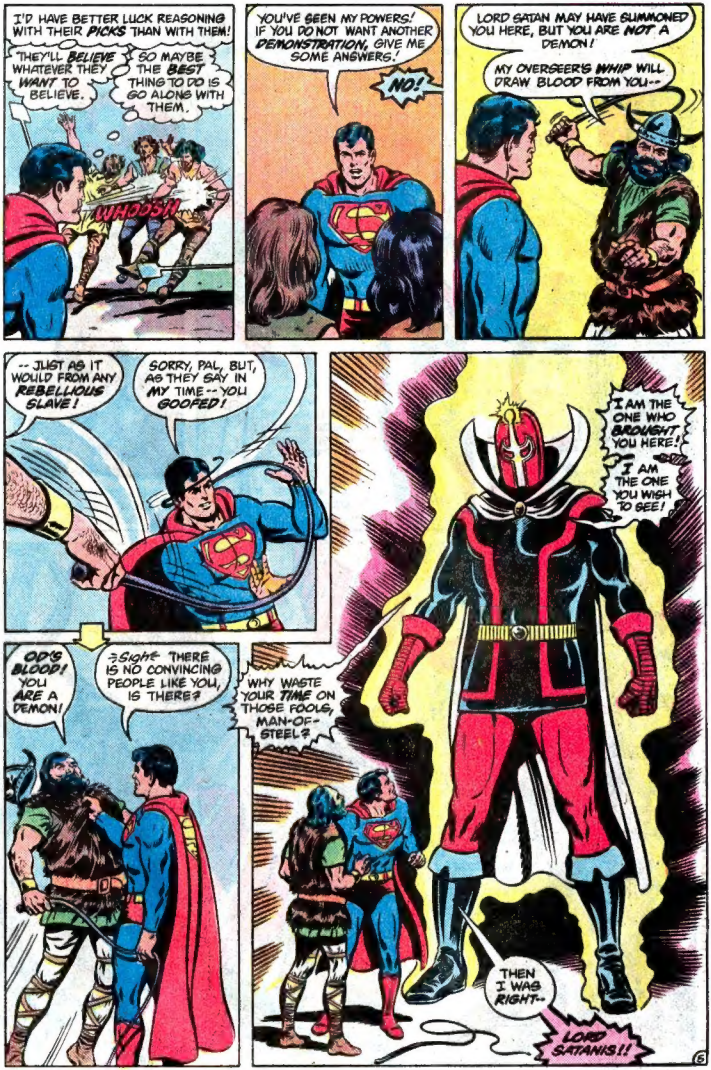
I'D HAVE BETTER LUCK REASONING WITH THEIR PICKS THAN WITH THEM!
THEY'LL BELIEVE WHATEVER THEY WANT TO BELIEVE.
SO MAYBE THE BEST THING TO DO IS GO ALONG WITH THEM.
WHOOSH!
YOU'VE SEEN MY POWERS! IF YOU DO NOT WANT ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION, GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS!
NO!
LORD SATAN MAY HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE, BUT YOU ARE NOT A DEMON!
MY OVERSEER'S WHIP WILL DRAW BLOOD FROM YOU--
-- JUST AS IT WOULD FROM ANY REBELLIOUS SLAVE!
SORRY, PAL, BUT, AS THEY SAY IN MY TIME--YOU GOOFED!
I AM THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE!
I AM THE ONE YOU WISH TO SEE!
ODIN'S BLOOD! YOU ARE A DEMON!
SIGH! THERE IS NO CONVINCING PEOPLE LIKE YOU, IS THERE?
WHY WASTE YOUR TIME ON THOSE FOOLS, MAN-OF-STEEL?
THEN I WAS RIGHT--
LORD SATANIS!!
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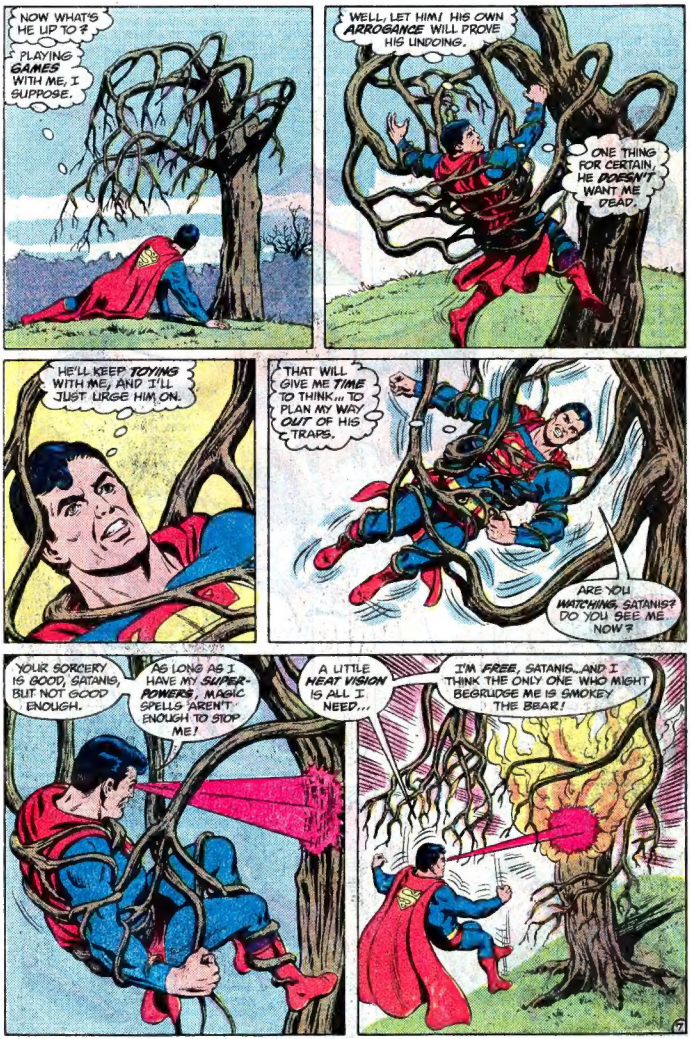
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF YOU!
THEN YOU ARE A GREATER FOOL THAN I PREVIOUSLY SUSPECTED!
I HAVE NEED OF YOUR INVULNERABLE BODY--
--FOR ONLY THROUGH IT MAY I OBTAIN-- THE POWER ULTIMATE!
HE IS AN ILLUSION! BLAST! THE REAL SATANIS COULD BE MOST ANYWHERE!
WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL!
LORD SATANIS IS A MASTER SORCERER--
--AND SADLY, SORCERY IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS I'M VULNERABLE TO!
THE GROUNDS SHAKING? SURELY THE MOLE ISN'T BACK HERE...
...THOUGH SOMETHING TELLS ME I WISH HE WERE!
SATANIS' SORCERY FASHIONED THAT WARRIOR!
AND THAT MEANS THE BATTLE STARTS--
WHAK!
UNGHH!
I FELT THAT ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO MY BOOTS!
I SAID I HAD TO BE CAREFUL, SO WHY WASN'T I PAYING ATTENTION?


NOW WHAT'S HE UP TO?
PLAYING GAMES WITH ME, I SUPPOSE.
WELL, LET HIM! HIS OWN ARROGANCE WILL PROVE HIS UNDOING.
ONE THING FOR CERTAIN, HE DOESN'T WANT ME DEAD.
HE'LL KEEP TOYING WITH ME, AND I'LL JUST URGE HIM ON.
THAT WILL GIVE ME TIME TO THINK... TO PLAN MY WAY OUT OF HIS TRAPS.
ARE YOU WATCHING, SATANIS? DO YOU SEE ME NOW?
YOUR SORCERY IS GOOD, SATANIS, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
AS LONG AS I HAVE MY SUPER-POWERS, MAGIC SPELLS AREN'T ENOUGH TO STOP ME!
A LITTLE HEAT VISION IS ALL I NEED...
I'M FREE, SATANIS...AND I THINK THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT BEGRUDGE ME IS SMOKEY THE BEAR!
7

DID YOU SEE THAT? TRULY HE IS A DEMON!
FIRE SPRANG FROM HIS EYES!
AND LOOK--HE FLIES!
WONDERFUL! BETWEEN SATANIS AND ME WE'RE PROBABLY GIVING BIRTH TO A WHOLE SLEW OF SUPERSTITIONS!
EH? THE SMOKE FROM THAT TREE--IT'S CURLING SIDEWAYS?
WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE, UNLESS...
HE DOESN'T GIVE UP, DOES HE?
OLIVER J. DRAGON, I SUPPOSE?
HMMM... I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HIS EYES ARE GLOWING...
...AND SINCE I DON'T KNOW HOW HE MIGHT AFFECT ME--
--MY BEST BET IS TO KEEP AWAY FROM ALL THINGS POSSIBLY DEADLY.
TROUBLE IS, SATANIS CAN KEEP THIS UP VIRTUALLY FOREVER--
--WHILE MY SURVIVAL ODDS AGAINST HIS SORCERY ARE NOTHING I'D CARE TO BET ON.
HE HAS ME TRAPPED AND HE KNOWS IT, WHICH IS THE ONLY REASON HE'S NOT GOING FOR THE KILL!
AGGHH!
WORRYING SO MUCH ABOUT SATANIS--I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
NOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?
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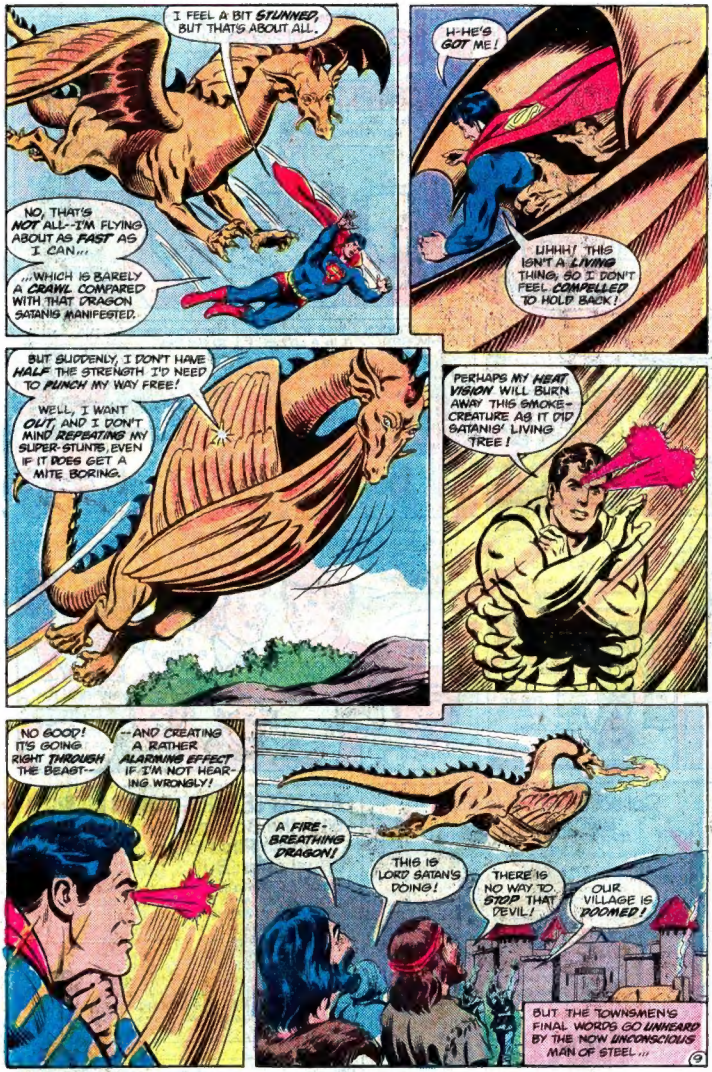
I FEEL A BIT STUNNED, BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL.
NO, THAT'S NOT ALL--I'M FLYING ABOUT AS FAST AS I CAN...
...WHICH IS BARELY A CRAWL COMPARED WITH THAT DRAGON SATANIS MANIFESTED.
H-HE'S GOT ME!
UHHH! THIS ISN'T A LIVING THING, SO I DON'T FEEL COMPELLED TO HOLD BACK!
BUT SUDDENLY, I DON'T HAVE HALF THE STRENGTH I'D NEED TO PUNCH MY WAY FREE!
WELL, I WANT OUT, AND I DON'T MIND REPEATING MY SUPER-STUNTS, EVEN IF IT DOES GET A MITE BORING.
PERHAPS MY HEAT VISION WILL BURN AWAY THIS SMOKE-CREATURE AS IT DID SATANIS' LIVING TREE!
NO GOOD! IT'S GOING RIGHT THROUGH THE BEAST--
--AND CREATING A RATHER ALARMING EFFECT IF I'M NOT HEARING WRONGLY!
A FIRE-BREATHING DRAGON!
THIS IS LORD SATAN'S DOING!
THERE IS NO WAY TO STOP THAT DEVIL!
OUR VILLAGE IS DOOMED!
BUT THE TOWNSMEN'S FINAL WORDS GO UNHEARD BY THE NOW UNCONSCIOUS MAN OF STEEL...
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THOUGH, SOME SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, HE IS AWAKE ONCE AGAIN...
ANOTHER ILLUSION, OR ARE YOU THE REAL SATANIS?
LORD SATANIS, SUPERMAN! THE RULER OF FUTURE-EARTH...
...AND SOON TO BE THE RULER OF ALL TIME!
SURE YOU'RE UP TO IT, SATANIS? YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THE CAT REFUSED TO DRAG HOME!
MY BATTLES HAVE BEEN TAXING, SUPERMAN, BUT MY STRENGTH RETURNS WITH EVERY PASSING MINUTE.
THOUGH, WITH MY EVERY PAINFUL ACHE, I CURSE MY WIFE, SYRENE--FOR SHE DID THIS TO ME!
YOU REMEMBER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, SUPERMAN...
I CAME TO YOUR TIME SEEKING THE RUNESTONE WHICH WOULD GIVE ME THE ULTIMATE SORCEROUS POWERS.
"I HAD IT WITHIN MY VERY GRASP, BUT SYRENE, CURSE THE WOMAN, SENT IT PLUNGING THROUGH TIME!
I SWEAR I SHALL BE THE ONE TO FIND AND CLAIM IT!
MY HUSBAND, THE RUNESTONE EXISTS SOMEWHERE IN THIS WORLD! FAST.
ITS POWERS WILL BE MINE TO CONTROL! ALIVE!!
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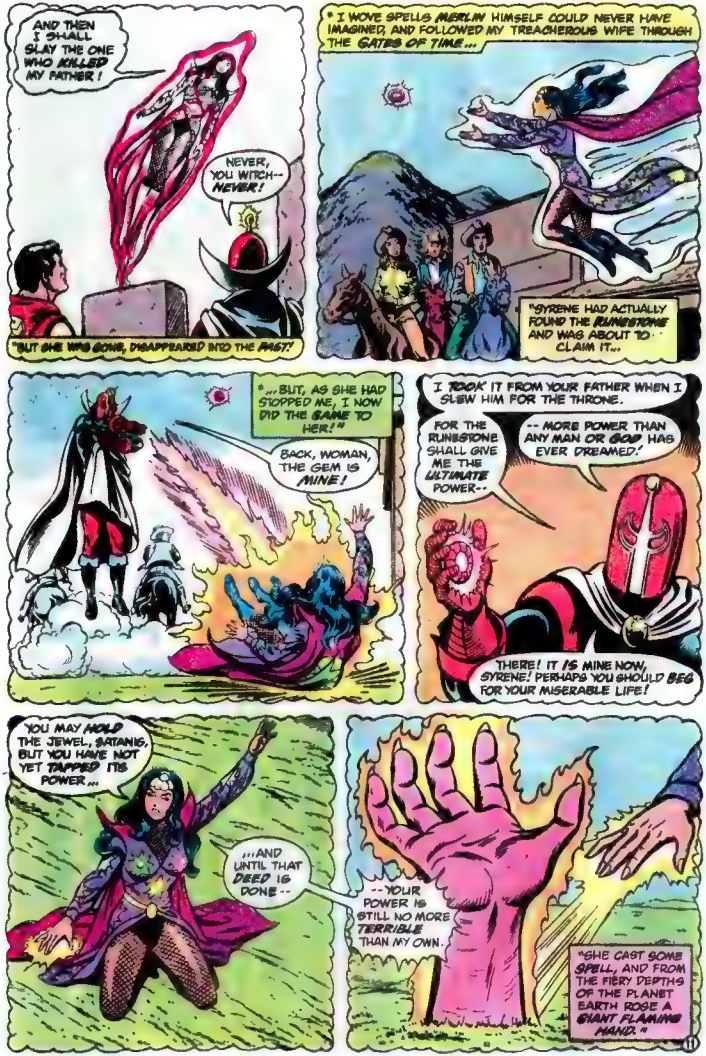
AND THEN I SHALL SLAY THE ONE WHO KILLED MY FATHER!
NEVER, YOU WITCH-- NEVER!
"BUT SHE WAS GONE, DISAPPEARED INTO THE PAST."
"I WOVE SPELLS MERLIN HIMSELF COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED, AND FOLLOWED MY TREACHEROUS WIFE THROUGH THE GATES OF TIME...
"SYRENE HAD ACTUALLY FOUND THE RUNESTONE AND WAS ABOUT TO CLAIM IT...
"...BUT, AS SHE HAD STOPPED ME, I NOW DID THE SAME TO HER!"
BACK, WOMAN, THE GEM IS MINE!
I TOOK IT FROM YOUR FATHER WHEN I SLEW HIM FOR THE THRONE.
FOR THE RUNESTONE SHALL GIVE ME THE ULTIMATE POWER--
-- MORE POWER THAN ANY MAN OR GOD HAS EVER DREAMED.'
THERE! IT IS MINE NOW, SYRENE! PERHAPS YOU SHOULD BEG FOR YOUR MISERABLE LIFE!
'YOU MAY HOLD THE JEWEL, SATANIS, BUT YOU HAVE NOT YET TAPPED ITS POWER...
...AND UNTIL THAT DEED IS DONE--
--YOUR POWER IS STILL NO MORE TERRIBLE THAN MY OWN.
"SHE CAST SOME SPELL, AND FROM THE FIERY DEPTHS OF THE PLANET EARTH ROSE A GIANT FLAMING HAND."
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"IT COULD HAVE ONLY BEEN THE HAND OF HIM WHOSE NAME I TOOK AS MY OWN...
"...AND HE HELD ME TIGHT IN AN INESCAPABLE GRIP.
"HE BROUGHT ME TO THE LOWER DEPTHS AND NOTHING I COULD DO WOULD FREE ME.
"BUT SYRENE HAD FAILED TO REALIZE THAT THE MASTER OF ALL WOULD BE WILLING TO HEAR MY WORDS."
WE STRUCK A BARGAIN AND I WAS CAST FROM THE DEPTHS AND THROWN THROUGH TIME.
I LANDED IN THIS PLACE, BUT THE MASTER, IN SHOWING HOW EASILY HE COULD CONTROL ME, SENT ME HERE ON THE VERY BRINK OF DEATH.
LIKE THE GULLIBLE FOOLS THEY ARE, THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH--
--WHEN THEY SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME AS THE AGENT OF THE ANTI-GOD THAT I HAD SWORN TO BECOME.
"ONLY THESE FOOLS HAD SEEN ME WEAK AND HELPLESS, AND SO I PAID THEM BACK FOR THEIR KINDNESS...
"BY SUMMONING FORTH THE GREAT POISONOUS SERPENTS WHICH WERE MINE TO CONTROL."

YOU KILLED THEM? JUST LIKE THAT? SATANIS, YOU'RE FILTH!
HARDLY, SUPERMAN. I AM SIMPLY ONE WHO ACKNOWLEDGES HIS DESTINY.
I AM ONE WHO HUNGERS FOR POWER AND WILL DO WHATEVER MUST BE DONE TO SATE MY CRAVINGS!
BUT YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THAT, COULD YOU? YOU POSSESS GREAT POWERS, YET YOU SQUANDER THEM AWAY--
--HELPING MINDLESS DOLTS WHO COULD NEVER APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DO FOR THEM.
BUT THIS DISCUSSION IS ALL USELESS, FOR IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS, YOU WILL BE DEAD, AND I--
--I WILL SIMPLY CONTROL...
...EVERYTHING!
THERE! DO YOU SEE IT, SUPERMAN?
BURNING ITS WAY THROUGH THE SKIES LIKE SOME HEAVEN-SENT MIRACLE!
THE DEVICE I HAD MY SLAVES BUILD WILL CATCH AND HOLD THE RUNESTONE UNTIL IT IS SAFE TO TOUCH.
AND THEN, MAN OF STEEL, ITS POWERS SHALL FLOW THROUGH YOUR INVULNERABLE BODY--
--AND FILTER THEIR WAY INTO ME!
ANY ORDINARY MORTAL WOULD BE TORN ASUNDER AS ITS MAGICKS INSINUATED THEMSELVES THROUGH HIM--

--BUT YOU ARE ABOVE THE MERE ORDINARY, AT LEAST IN BODY.
AND THAT IS WHY I NEED YOU... FOR ONLY YOU COULD SURVIVE THE RUNESTONE'S RAVAGES.
NOW! THE GEM IS CAUGHT!
AND, BEFORE ITS MYSTIC ENERGIES ARE FOREVER LOST--
--I CAST THE SPELL OF AZAR FROM THE DIMENSION-LOST LAND OF MY BIRTH.
YES... YES... ALREADY I CAN FEEL IT.
EVEN THIS CLOSE, I AM IN AWE OF ITS TERRIBLE POWER.
IT IS TIME! NOW ITS POWERS FILTER THROUGH YOU!
ARGGHHHHHH!
THE PAIN IS TERRIBLE! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, SATANIS--IT'S PULLING ME APART!!

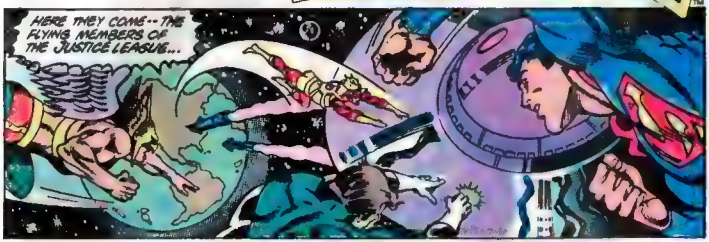
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS, SATANIS-- MY BLOOD IS BOILING!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SURVIVE THIS AGONY!
IT IS NOT YET TIME, SUPERMAN.
AND TRULY, WHAT DO I CARE IF YOU SHOULD PERISH, ONCE I HAVE ABSORBED ALL THE RUNESTONE'S ENERGIES?
I AM READY NOW, SUPERMAN... I AM READY!
BY THE DARK ORB! I--I CANNOT COME NEAR YOU!
SOMETHING PUSHES ME AWAY... IT IS AS IF THERE WERE SOME FORCE--
SYRENE! THIS HAS TO BE HER DOING!
CORRECT, MY FOOLISH HUSBAND.
DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE I WOULD ALLOW YOU TO CLAIM THE GEM WITHOUT A BATTLE?
THE STONE BELONGED TO MY FATHER, AMBRA-- HE WOULD HAVE PASSED IT DOWN TO ME.

BAH! I KILLED THAT CRETIN BECAUSE HE WAS A WEAK FOOL!
AND NOW, IF I MUST, I WILL SLAY HIS STUPID DAUGHTER AS WELL!
BOTH OF YOU-- FOR KRYPTON'S SAKE--STOP THIS!
THE ENERGIES ARE PULLING AT ME...
WE BOTH CLAIM THIS SUPERMAN AND THE POWER OF THE RUNESTONE.
BUT I SWEAR TO YOU NOW, HUSBAND, ONLY I SHALL EMERGE VICTORIOUS.
WITCH! YOU SHALL BE NOTHING BUT A MOLDERING CORPSE!
SUPERMAN IS MINE!!
I SAID-- STOP! YOU'RE TEARING ME--

--APART!!?
BY THE DARK ORB!
GREAT AMBRA!
TWO SUPERMEN? YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING NEXT, DO YOU, ACTIONPHILE? WELL, WHATEVER YOUR GUESS, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY WRONG! BE HERE NEXT ISSUE AND MEET--
Omega MEN
ON SALE JUNE 24TH. IT'S A DATE!

LARRY JORDAN FOUGHT CRIME ON TWO FRONTS -- IN THE COURTROOM AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND ON THE STREETS AS A COSTUMED SUPER-HERO -- UNTIL HE DIED! NOW, FOURTEEN YEARS LATER, HIS SON HAL CARRIES ON A FAMILY TRADITION, RIDING THE RADIOWAVES AS...

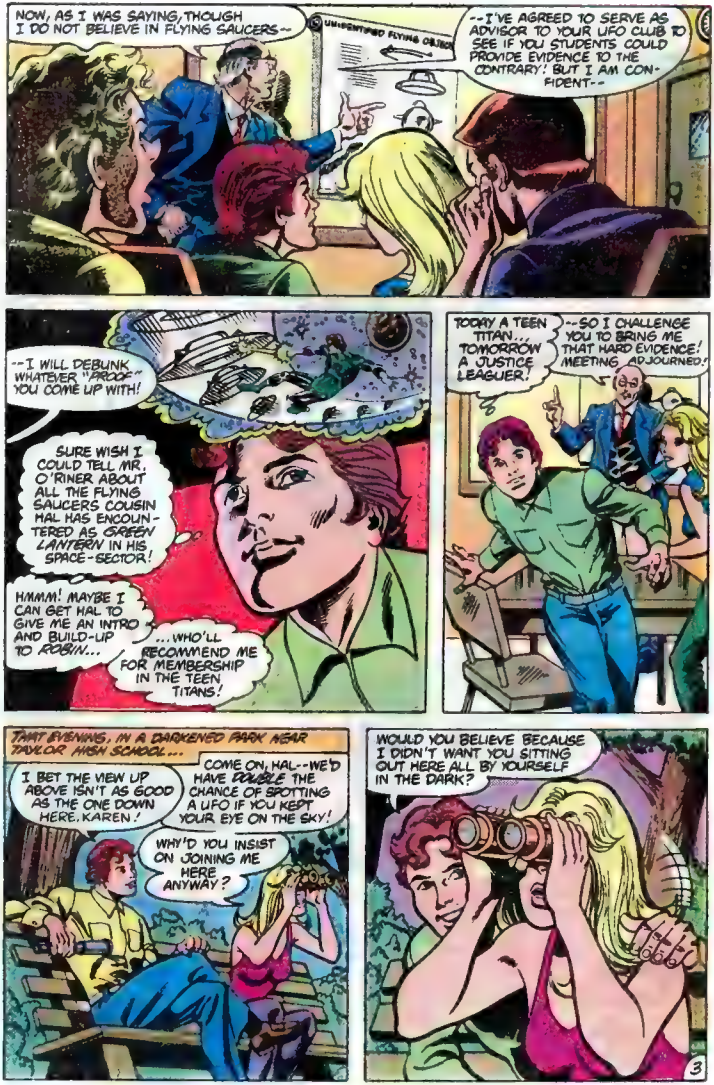
AIR WAVE™



BUT TOO LATE TO PREVENT ME FROM ANNIHILATING THEIR PLANET!
NOT TOO LATE FOR AIR WAVE! IN MY ENERGIZED FORM, I'VE DISABLED THE WARHEADS ON YOUR MISSILES --
--AND NOW I'M GOING TO DISABLE YOU!
SWAK
AIR WAVE'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER!

BOB ROZAKIS writer * ALEX SAYUK pencils * JAIM DE LA ROSA inks * COSTANZA letterer * ZILKO colorist * JULIUS SCHWARTZ editor

THE THREAT TO EARTH IS OVER, JUSTICE LEAGUERS!
THANKS TO YOU, AIR WAVE!
YOU'RE THE GREATEST HERO OF US ALL!
YOU DID IT SINGLE-HANDED! I'M PROUD OF YOU, COUSIN!
IT WAS THE BEST MOVE WE EVER MADE TO INDUCT YOU INTO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
IT SURE WAS...
...OR WILL BE WHEN I REACH THE AGE TO JOIN THE JLA!
STILL, I'M OLD ENOUGH NOW TO BECOME A TEEN TITAN...
MR. JORDAN! ARE YOU STILL WITH US?
HUNH--?!
OH, SORRY, MR. O'RINER!
I REALIZE THAT THIS IS A CLUB MEETING AND ATTENDANCE IS VOLUNTARY--
--BUT IF YOUR BODY IS GOING TO OCCUPY A SEAT, KINDLY ARRANGE FOR YOUR MIND TO BE HERE TOO!


NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, THOUGH I DO NOT BELIEVE IN FLYING SAUCERS--
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT
--I'VE AGREED TO SERVE AS ADVISOR TO YOUR UFO CLUB TO SEE IF YOU STUDENTS COULD PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY! BUT I AM CONFIDENT--
--I WILL DEBUNK WHATEVER "PROOF" YOU COME UP WITH!
SURE WISH I COULD TELL MR. O'RINER ABOUT ALL THE FLYING SAUCERS COUSIN HAL HAS ENCOUNTERED AS GREEN LANTERN IN HIS SPACE-SECTOR!
HMMM! MAYBE I CAN GET HAL TO GIVE ME AN INTRO AND BUILD-UP TO ROBIN!...
...WHO'LL RECOMMEND ME FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE TEEN TITANS!
TODAY A TEEN TITAN... TOMORROW A JUSTICE LEAGUER!
--SO I CHALLENGE YOU TO BRING ME THAT HARD EVIDENCE! MEETING ADJOURNED!
THAT EVENING, IN A DARKENED PARK NEAR TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL...
I BET THE VIEW UP ABOVE ISN'T AS GOOD AS THE ONE DOWN HERE, KAREN!
COME ON, HAL--WE'D HAVE DOUBLE THE CHANCE OF SPOTTING A UFO IF YOU KEPT YOUR EYE ON THE SKY!
WHY'D YOU INSIST ON JOINING ME HERE ANYWAY?
WOULD YOU BELIEVE BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT YOU SITTING OUT HERE ALL BY YOURSELF IN THE DARK?
3

AFTER ALL, THERE'S A LOT MORE WE CAN DO HERE THAN LOOK AT STARS!
HAL JORDAN--!
I DIDN'T COME OUT HERE TO MAKE OUT WITH YOU!
YOU WANT A KISS--TRY ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE--ON A REAL DATE.
OKAY, STARRY-EYES--BUT YOU'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE OF SEEING A FLYING SAUCER--
--BY WATCHING "CREATURE FEATURES" ON TV!
LISTEN--IF YOU DON'T WANT TO COOPERATE, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE--
OKAY, OKAY--ONE SPYGLASS COMING UP!
OH, WOW! EITHER THERE'S A DEFECT IN THE LENS OR I SEE--
--A FLYING SAUCER! THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
IT'S TRUE, ALL RIGHT--BUT I'M NOT SURE WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD!
THAT'S SOMETHING FOR AIR FORCE TO CHECK OUT!
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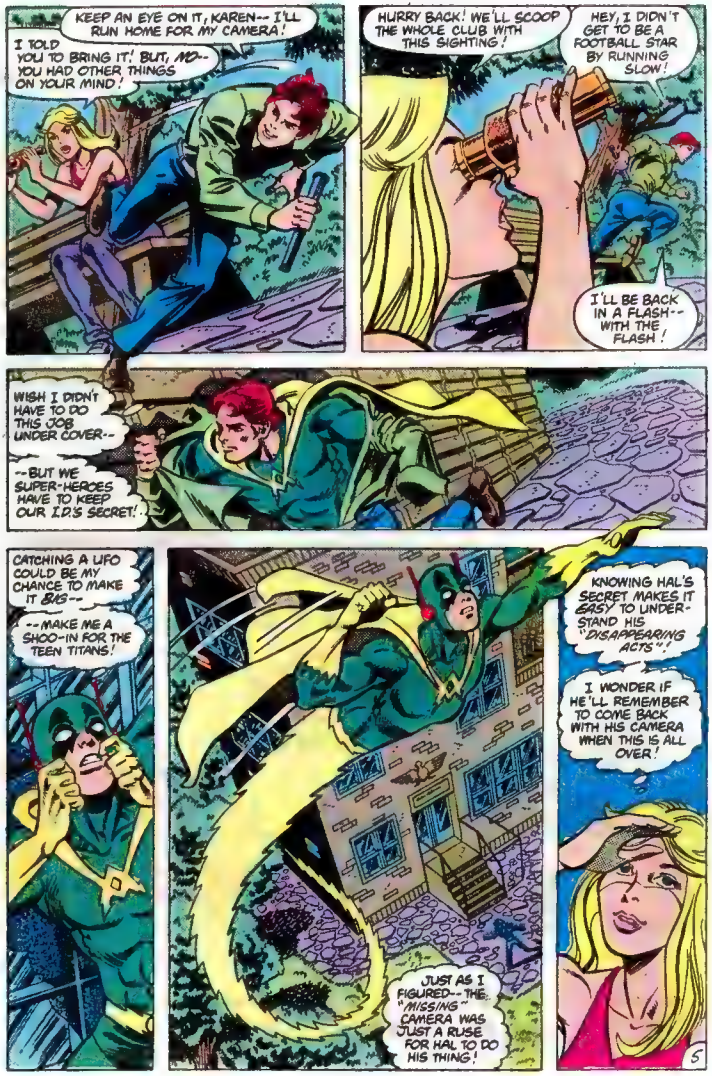
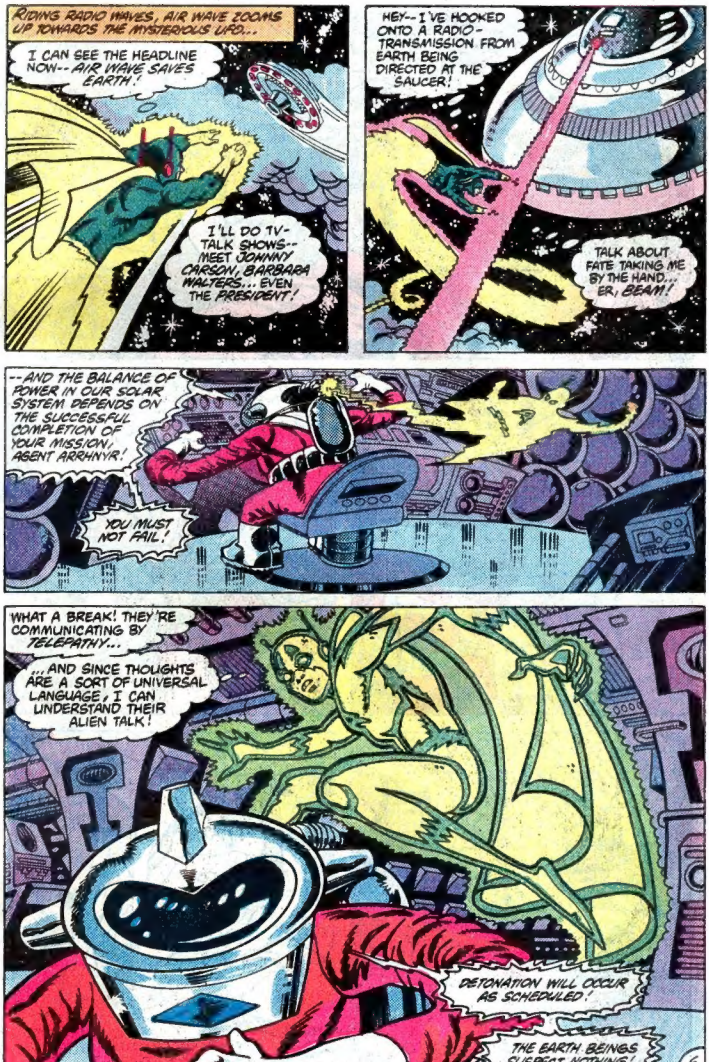
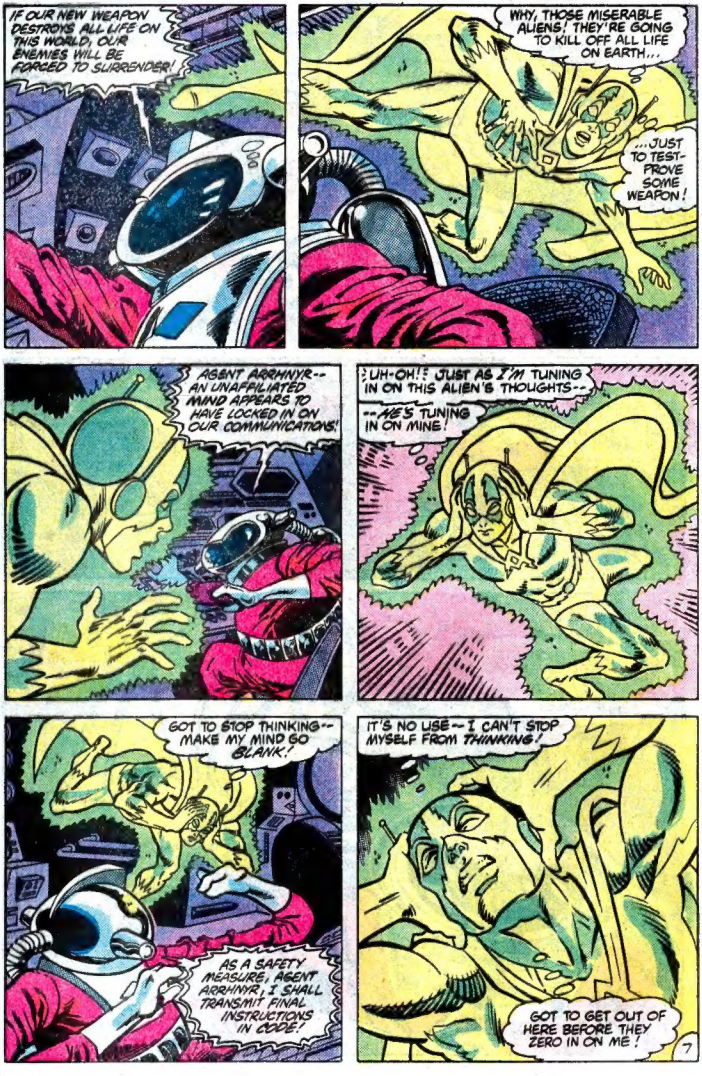
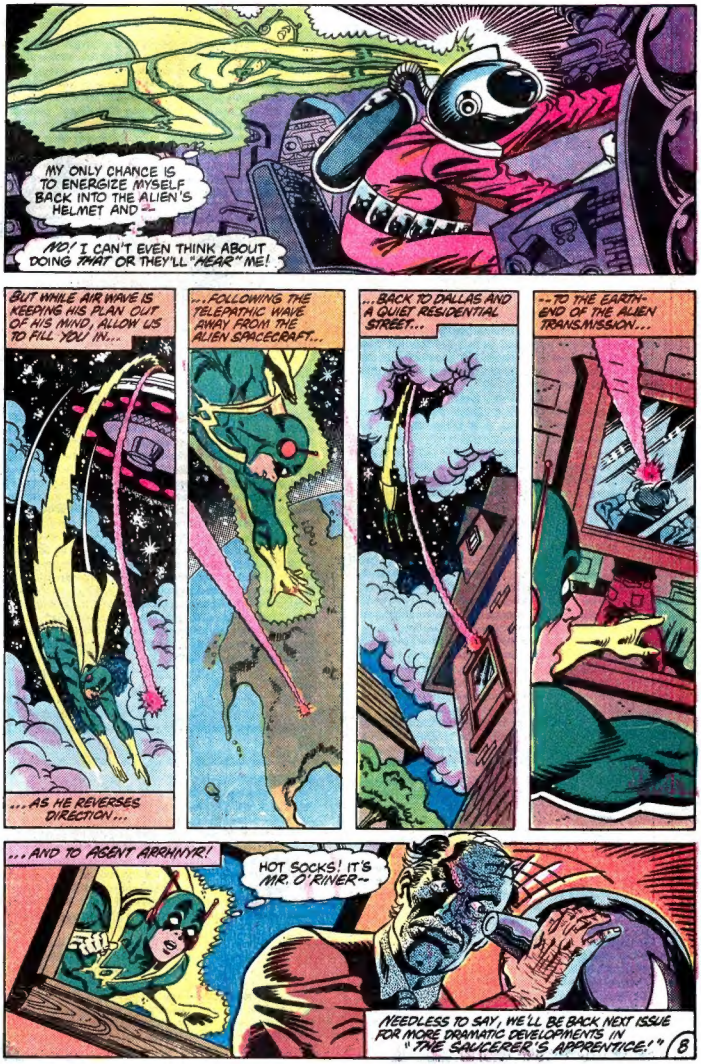
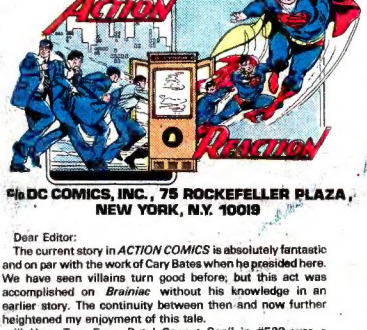

KEEP AN EYE ON IT, KAREN-- I'LL RUN HOME FOR MY CAMERA!
I TOLD YOU TO BRING IT! BUT, NO-- YOU HAD OTHER THINGS ON YOUR MIND!
HURRY BACK! WE'LL SCOOP THE WHOLE CLUB WITH THIS SIGHTING!
HEY, I DIDN'T GET TO BE A FOOTBALL STAR BY RUNNING SLOW!
I'LL BE BACK IN A FLASH-- WITH THE FLASH!
WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS JOB UNDER COVER--
--BUT WE SUPER-HEROES HAVE TO KEEP OUR I.D.'S SECRET!
CATCHING A UFO COULD BE MY CHANCE TO MAKE IT BIG--
--MAKE ME A SHOO-IN FOR THE TEEN TITANS!
JUST AS I FIGURED-- THE "MISSING" CAMERA WAS JUST A RUSE FOR HAL TO DO HIS THING!
KNOWING HAL'S SECRET MAKES IT EASY TO UNDERSTAND HIS "DISAPPEARING ACTS"!
I WONDER IF HE'LL REMEMBER TO COME BACK WITH HIS CAMERA WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER!
5


RIDING RADIO WAVES, AIR WAVE ZOOMS UP TOWARDS THE MYSTERIOUS UFO...
I CAN SEE THE HEADLINE NOW-- AIR WAVE SAVES EARTH!
I'LL DO TV-TALK SHOWS-- MEET JOHNNY CARSON, BARBARA WALTERS... EVEN THE PRESIDENT!
HEY-- I'VE HOOKED ONTO A RADIO-TRANSMISSION FROM EARTH BEING DIRECTED AT THE SAUCER!
TALK ABOUT FATE TAKING ME BY THE HAND... ER, BEAM!
--AND THE BALANCE OF POWER IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM DEPENDS ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF YOUR MISSION, AGENT ARRHNYR!
YOU MUST NOT FAIL!
WHAT A BREAK! THEY'RE COMMUNICATING BY TELEPATHY...
...AND SINCE THOUGHTS ARE A SORT OF UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE, I CAN UNDERSTAND THEIR ALIEN TALK!
DETONATION WILL OCCUR AS SCHEDULED!
THE EARTH BEINGS SUSPECT NOTHING!


IF OUR NEW WEAPON DESTROYS ALL LIFE ON THIS WORLD, OUR ENEMIES WILL BE FORCED TO SURRENDER!
WHY, THOSE MISERABLE ALIENS! THEY'RE GOING TO KILL OFF ALL LIFE ON EARTH...
...JUST TO TEST-PROVE SOME WEAPON!
AGENT ARRHNYR--AN UNAFFILIATED MIND APPEARS TO HAVE LOCKED IN ON OUR COMMUNICATIONS!
UH-OH! JUST AS I'M TUNING IN ON THIS ALIEN'S THOUGHTS--
--HE'S TUNING IN ON MINE!
GOT TO STOP THINKING--MAKE MY MIND GO BLANK!
AS A SAFETY MEASURE, AGENT ARRHNYR, I SHALL TRANSMIT FINAL INSTRUCTIONS IN CODE!
IT'S NO USE--I CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM THINKING!
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY ZERO IN ON ME!
7


MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO ENERGIZE MYSELF BACK INTO THE ALIEN'S HELMET AND—
NO! I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT DOING THAT OR THEY'LL "HEAR" ME!
BUT WHILE AIR WAVE IS KEEPING HIS PLAN OUT OF HIS MIND, ALLOW US TO FILL YOU IN...
...AS HE REVERSES DIRECTION...
...FOLLOWING THE TELEPATHIC WAVE AWAY FROM THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT...
...BACK TO DALLAS AND A QUIET RESIDENTIAL STREET...
--TO THE EARTH-END OF THE ALIEN TRANSMISSION...
...AND TO AGENT ARRHINYR!
HOT SOCKS! IT'S MR. O'RINER--
NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE'LL BE BACK NEXT ISSUE FOR MORE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN "THE SAUCERER'S APPRENTICE!"

S-3933



c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor:

The current story in *ACTION COMICS* is absolutely fantastic and on par with the work of Cary Bates when he presided here. We have seen villains turn good before; but this act was accomplished on *Brainiac* without his knowledge in an earlier story. The continuity between then and now further heightened my enjoyment of this tale.

"I Have Two Eyes, But I Cannot See" in #529 was a masterful middle issue for this trilogy. *Brainiac's* planet-eater, the reason of being for this saga, took a back seat, yet its menace was ever-present. *Superman* was really at odds this time, and with all of his super-senses, he felt helpless at not being able to use them. It was more natural for him to believe what he saw; after all, he's the one with the super-vision and hearing. Not being in control definitely put *Superman* on edge.

And if *Superman* wasn't in control, *Brainiac* was really at a loss. His creation had become the master and he was unable to stop it, let alone barely survive its attack. These scenes provided us with a lot of insight into the character of *Brainiac*. He'd make a great good guy and you couldn't help but sympathize with him over the idea of returning to his evil ways. I knew that this tale would return him to evil and having *Superman* reverse the surgery was the most logical means to accomplish this. Yet I found it strange that *Brainiac* expressed that he had returned to his primary desire and destiny. Yes, he was conceived in this manner, but his logical-thinking brain must know the difference between good and evil. He was helpless to forestall his initial programming to the point that if he did have a free will, he might have chosen good. There was a lot of fine character development here and I doubt we'll see *Brainiac* in this manner again for some time to come.

All of this and a continuation of the Daily Planet sub-plot and the introduction of the new bottle city of Kandor! Marv Wolfman, you're really learning how to handle the Man of Steel. I look forward to many more of your *Superman* stories!

KENT A. PHENIS,
1321 North Meridian Street,
Apt. 913,
Indianapolis, IN 46202

We think Marv's known how to handle Superman for quite some time, Kent. It's always been one of his favorite features, and he says that one of his goals during much of his comics-writing career was to be able to write Superman stories regularly. We'd guess that Marv enjoys writing them as much as you enjoy reading them!—BR

* * *

Dear Men of ACTION:

I have two eyes so I can clearly see that *Brainiac* has been reprogrammed back to his "evil channel". Yes, *Brainiac* is the maniac he was before the super-duper brainwashing of 1981! I liked the idea of having him reformed into a good guy, but he's much more useful as a villain. Let's face it: this was a rare case when *Superman* needed *Brainiac's* help, but he certainly doesn't need Brainy tagging along on every adventure. Marv used the flipflop of personalities as a harmless flimflam and I really believed *Brainy* would remain "clean"...for awhile, at least.

Yes, *Brainiac* is best as a villain and to have him changed to goodness permanently would be, in a sense, adulterating his usefulness. The computer-brained miscreant should remain a bugaboo to *Superman* and the city of Metropolis and, okay...the whole universe. I don't know if Marv was inspired by Cary Bates' "Lex Luthor Mimics Mr. Clean" personality switcharoo, but this *Brainy*-twist was a twist in the right direction. Having *Brainiac* help *Superman* stop his own machine of destruction was an unexpected pleasure to behold.

Of course, it was no surprise to see Lois and Jimmy joining in the "fun" as a form of pledge of allegiance to *Superman*, but the most dramatic moment was *Brainiac* pleading with *Superman*, begging *Supes* not to force those evil ways upon him again. The Man of Steel did what he felt was best for the world and it made for a memorable moment. Thanks for that memory and, in the words of your pink-garbed meanie, "Pray you do not regret what you have done this day!"

TIM WAHOWSKE,
2307 Braidwood Road,
Emmett, MI 48022

We never regret what we've done, Tim, if it makes for a story that we and our readers enjoy!—BR

* * *

Dear Julie and Bob,

What's all the fuss about? There seems to be a reasonably simple solution to the problems of the "Absorber". All *Superman* and *Brainiac* would need are a shrinking ray and a Bizarro ray. At super-speed, have *Superman* construct an exact copy of *Brainiac's* shrinking ray. Then have the Man of Steel use one shrinking ray on the other in reverse...enlarging it to planet-size proportions. Then have the Action Ace also enlarge the Bizarro machine in the same manner. Then *Superman* would be able to use the enlarged Bizarro ray on the Absorber, making a duplicate which would fulfill the Absorber's mission in reverse, i.e. reversing all the damage that had been done even to the point of recreating the destroyed worlds. Then the enlarged shrinking ray could be used on the original Absorber, condensing it down to nothingness...out of existence! The still-reformed *Brainiac* could then follow the Bizarro-Absorber back across the galaxy as it recreated the worlds and suns its brother had destroyed. But *Brainiac* would use a Bizarro-Bizarro ray (provided by *Superman*) to change all of the recreated worlds from Bizarro-form back to their original form. Everything would then be hunky-dory without the cost of turning Brainiac evil again.

KEVIN FISCHER,
1711 Black Oak Lane,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Wait a minute! I thought you said this solution was SIMPLE!—BR

* * *

Dear Editor:

I like soaring the skies with Bob Rozakis' *Hawkman* in *WORLD'S FINEST*. I *love* swimming with Bob's *Aquaman* in *ACTION*—especially on an alien waterworld. "Death If By Land, Death If By Sea" has been the best chapter in this series so far. Mystery, action, story, and art meshed beautifully here. This world's situation provided *Aquaman* with the opportunity to prove himself a hero from the moment he arrived and from the way he's been handling himself, both he and the Vortumans know he definitely is one! I can't wait to see more of this kind of *Aquaman* next issue and in issues to come!

NEIL AHLQUIST,
1315 Madison Street NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Then you'll be thrilled when you see what we've cooked up for the Sea King when he splashes down again in ACTION #536, Neil. And while Hawkman is winging his way out of WORLD'S FINEST after this month's issue, you can look forward to his flying into ACTION along around #539!—Bob Rozakis